OTTAWA HOME computing

Serving the Amiga Apple, Commodore, Macintosh and MS-Dos Computers

HAPPY VALENTINE

IN THIS ISSUE

OTTAWA HOME COMPUTING CLUB

beside the Nepean Sportsplex), usually the third Monday of the month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

Feb. 17, Mar. 9*, Apr. 13*
May 11*, June 8*
July and August to be announced ...

An * beside a date indicates that the meeting is not on the third Monday of that month.

Meeting format is standard (see "Club Notes" for specific details on the upcoming meeting), and the format is:

- 7:00 Membership registration, Disk of the Month sales, socialization
- 7:30 Business Meeting
- 7:45 Main Presentation
- 8:30 Special Interest Group meetings

Special Interest Groups (SIG) are the best places to ask your questions, offer suggestions to the Club's executive and meet members who have the same computer as you do. You may even catch a demo of the latest software:

- Apple/Mac—Auditorium
  Scotty Adams
- C64/Disk of Month—Room 117 or
  Keith Baker
- Amiga—Room 128
  Don White & Peter Martin
- C128 & CP/M—Room 119
  Bob Thomas
- MS-DOS—Room 115
- C64 Beginners—Room 118
  Pierre Castricum

OTTAWA HOME COMPUTING

Ottawa Home Computing is the Newsletter of the Ottawa Home Computing Club, and is mailed free of charge to members in good standing. Ottawa Home Computing is published 10 times a year.

Submissions to Ottawa Home Computing are most welcome. The preferred method of submission is by uploading your text file to the Club's BBS (see the "*Readme*" file in that area for instructions). If you don't have a modem, the next best method would be on a disk. Contact the editor regarding formats.

Classified ads of personal items (up to 25 words) are free to members. For more

information on commercial advertising, please contact the Advertising Manager.

Newsletter staff:

- Amiga: *vacant*
- Apple/Mac: Mike Bryan, 226-5588
- MS-DOS: Bonnie Carter 747-7660
- Advertising Manager: *vacant*

Address all correspondence to:
**Raymond Monette
1260 Emperor Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 8C5**

ORDERING DISKS

The O.H.C.C. charges a nominal fee for the disks & duplication service as follows:

- $4 for 5 1/4 inch single disk;
- $5 for 3 1/2 inch single disk;
- $3 per disk for 5 1/4 multi disk set;
- $4 per disk for 3 1/2 multi disk set;
- $6 per disk for non-members.

Only a few duplicated disks of every program are kept on hand. We strongly suggest that you call your librarian to order disks in advance of Club's meetings.

Disclaimer:

To the best of our knowledge, all the programs in the O.H.C.C. libraries are public domain or shareware programs and are free of *viruses*. We encourage you to support the shareware concept by sending suggested donation to the author. The O.H.C.C. makes NO guarantee of the performance of the software in all libraries and assumes no liability of any kind. All software in the library is used at the purchaser's cost and own risk. If a disk is found to be defective, it will be replaced at no extra charge.

Minutes of the Executive Meeting 6 Jan. 92
By Ray Monette

There will be no Report from this Executive Meeting due to my not being present because I had to work.

Sorry for the inconvinience.

CLUB NOTES

By Ray Monette

President's Corner

by Pierre Castricum

The month of February is upon us already and time to celebrate St. Valentine's day. I hope everyone was fortunate enough to show their loved ones how much they appreciate them.

Members of the executive were out in force on Friday January 18th and Saturday, January 19th at Carlingwood Shopping Centre. The club participated in a two-day exposition sponsored by the shopping centre in order to provide clubs such as ours, an opportunity to show the public what we are all about. A large number of people visited our tables and received information regarding the club. Several visitors said they would attend tonight's meeting and in some cases, become members.

We were quite surprised at the number of visitors seeing that the weather both days stayed at a cool minus 29-30 degrees.

I hope everyone enjoys the meeting tonight. See you there!

World Of Commodore Amiga

By Don White

Notes :From 'World Of Commodore Amiga'
December 6-8, 1991 International Centre, Toronto

- 1. Between the introduction of the Amiga in 1985 and the end of 1990, Commodore sold 2 million Amigas. In the last year they have sold another million Amigas.
- 2. Over 100 titles are available for CDTV. Two new titles introduced at the show were 'Guiness Book Of Records' and 'Trivial Pursuit'.
- 3. The Amiga 690, the CD-ROM portion of CDTV, was demonstrated at the show. This device attaches to the expansion port on the Amiga 500 and allows the user to have access to all the CDTV packages.
- 4. AmigaVision 1.70z is available. A runtime version of AmigaVision is now available under licence from Commodore.
- 5. Canadian companies are quite active in the Amiga world.

For example: Sinclair VideoText has installed an Amiga-based video display at Boston's Logan airport; Media Innovations is installing Amigas for Hallmark cards in the U.S.; Richmond Sound Designs (Vancouver) have installed Amigas at Disneyworld; Digital Media Networks OEM's the Amiga 500 into point-of-sale systems; another company has installed Amiga-based point-of-sale systems in shopping malls in Montreal; a contract has just been signed with CBC at their new offices in Toronto for Amigas; ComLAN (PC) and AmigaLAN are approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education; Amigas will be running on Novell networks in 1992.

Printing Text & Graphics On Same Page

By Dan Faber

This is the 7th in a series of articles regarding the C64.

Does one of your kids want to advertise around the neighbourhood for a snow shovelling or other kind of job? Are you the kind of person who wants to create a personalized valentine, Christmas or birthday card to send to your relatives and friends? Do you use a word processor and wish you could add pictures or headings to your letters. Do you want to construct labels for your diskettes or video cassettes with your own graphics and titles? If you can say "YES" to any one of the above questions, then read on.

This easy "PAGE LAYOUT" program lets you combine text from your word processor and graphics from somewhere else to create any sized layout you desire.

This C64 program is one of the most useful that I have ever used. With a joystick or preferably a mouse, I can put text on an 8" x 11" or 8" x 13" sheet in any position I want and I can position this text around or on top of illustrations. I can easily produce and position headings or titles anywhere and in any size. Lastly, I can put pictures anywhere on the page and make them any size or shape I choose - ranging from a small diskette label to a legal-sized letter.

The program allows the positioning of rubber banding boxes anywhere on a page and then the "POURING" into them of typing from a text editor, pictures from a graphic editor, and headings from a title editor. Once the boxes are positioned, they can be moved around and re-positioned on the page to improve the layout. Pictures, headings, and titles can be enlarged and/or reduced at will; also, the fonts used for the text can be changed to any favourite one in your collection. What cannot be done, however, is use nlg fonts on printers. With the push of the mouse button, a "Box Editor" allows the user to examine, adjust or modify, if deemed necessary, the text, fonts or graphics in each rubber banding box.

This program is, of course PaperClip Publisher. On July 2nd, 1967, two identical twins, named Allan and Mike Sedore, were born and subsequently grew up in Sarnia, Ontario. In 1984 while attending highschool, they touched their first computer in an Eaton's department store; in 1986, they acquired a C64 and in 1988, they finished writing this program - PaperClip Publisher. A company located in San Mateo California called Electronic Arts, gladly published it. A review of this program can be found in two old issues of our OHCC Newsletter dated October and November 1988, ie, Vol. 5, Nos. 4 AND 5. I have spoken to several C64 owners and this review apparently did not make much of an impression upon them. Instead, they continue to use restrictive layout programs such as PrintMaster, PrintShop, etc. I find it more useful to combine the restrictive elements of, for example, PrintShop with the full ease and creative flair of PaperClip Publisher to produce something spectacular. For example, the "GREETING CARD" format can easily be modified to include coloured illustrations or personal notes on the "BLANK" parts. After loading PaperClip Publisher (hereafter called "PCP"), a workdisk is formatted and loaded

with several files from the system disk. A document is created, named, and opened.

- Firstly the menu bar consisting of 5 menus, ie. project, department, page, box, & preview, can be displayed along the top margin. The cursor can be positioned along the menu bar and each menu scrolls down as a "window" to show the options. The first menu on the left is PROJ(ECT) which contain the options for opening and closing documents and exiting the "PCP" program.

- The second menu is DEPT(ARTMENT) which contain the options for editing text and graphics, examining the contents of each box, and printing the page.

- The third menu is PAGE which contain the settings for the page presently displayed and for the basic formatting and/or layout of all pages in the document.

- The fourth menu is BOX which contain the options for selecting rubber banding box attributes, such as type of border, type of background, or text fonts. There are CURRENT and DEFAULT box options available.

- The fifth menu is preview WHICH CONTAIN THE OPTIONS FOR SETTING THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL "pcp" displays on the screen when making changes. (the less detail displayed, the faster the screen will update the changes.)

Along the left side of the page are the LAYOUT TOOLS controls. These tools are used in layout out the pages and correcting mistakes. They are activated by clicking on the appropriate icon. There is one action of this program, however, that causes me considerable frustration. Even after printing the page, the new corrections are not saved, so remember to update, update, update, often. There is not enough space here to Review "PCP" in detail, so go back and read the reviews in the two OHCC Newsletters of 1988.

Among the most useful features of "PCP" are the FONT, TEXT, and GRAPHICS CONVERTER PROGRAMS. Font Converter allows you to convert fonts from GEOS and outrageous pages format to that of "PCP" format. Since GEOS has format converter programs available to convert various program formats to GEOS format, you can begin there.

Convert your favourite fonts to GEOS format, then use FONT CONVERTER to convert them to "PCP" format. FILE CONVERTER easily converts text (without excess embedded formatting) from PaperClip, Bank Street Writer, Word Writer, or Paperback Writer formats to "PCP format. This same program, FILE CONVERTER, converts graphics from PrintShop, PrintMaster, NewsRoom, and Outrageous Pages graphic files to "PCP" format.

To help with these conversions, a Public Domain program entitled PrintShop/PrintMaster/Newsroom graphic converter v1.2 by Brian Heyboer is readily available. Try this valuable page layout program, PaperClip Publisher, once and I believe you will never be without it.

If They Build It, It Will Come

by Dan Fineman, member of Atlanta PCUG

Mom always warned me to never argue about religion or politics. Dad always said, "Don't do as I do, do as I say." For years, I found nothing significant to add to those axioms for living. But then, we never had a computer when I was growing up. Now that I have children and computers of my own, with direct marketing bulging at the seams of my mailbox, I observe with chagrin the growing tension between major players in the PC systems arena, offering my children a third postulate of wisdom to carry with them into adulthood: "Trust your instincts, not the sales brochures."

After all, aren't computers meant to save time and money, not consume them? This is the crux of my annoyance with Microsoft Windows. I was drawn into Windows 3.0 because of desktop appearance, a mouse, cut-and-paste functionality, and yes, Reversi, because I naively assumed there to be reliable substance behind the style. When my existing programs wouldn't run from the Program Manager, I believed the brochures and consultants and upgraded my processor, memory and disk space. Microsoft was so touched by my problems that they sent me version 3.0a. After things still weren't quite right, I believed them again and bought Windows versions of everything I could find. Sure, my wife had to find a job and we fed the kids beans and rice for a year, but I believed that our massive investment of time and money to bring our household solid, state-of-the-art information at our fingertips was well worth the price of admission. I was on a mission to lead my family to the cutting edge of technological advancement, no matter the cost, even if I didn't have time to cut the grass any more.

Well, that was in spring. Today, summer is over, the backyard is reseeding itself nicely, and Windows 3.0 has reached the autumn of its existence at my house. Now while things aren't quite right running Windows, the brochures and consultants tell me to wait for version 3.1 and Win/NT, that they will solve all my problems. Look, fellows, I've often been accused of being a little dense, but I can still spot a scam when it wallops me over the head. I've got a 386 with 8MB of RAM, 200MB of disk space and a bookcase full of software manuals, and I have to pass the time at home rebooting the PC because it doesn't work right and my wallet is empty so I can't afford to go anywhere or do anything else. Since Mom never said anything was wrong with arguing about systems software, I'll let 'er rip . . .

Microsoft Windows 3.0 is rude, arrogant and deceitful. Restless icons, self-dimensioning windows, mismatched fonts, orphaned resource allocations, memory conflicts, UAE's and system hangs abound. But no matter who I ask, it's always something I've done wrong. I'm forever checking CONFIG.SYS, AUTOEXEC.BAT, WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI, ad infinitum. Forget that programs running just fine from the C prompt burp the big one in Windows; they're obviously not "well-behaved" programs. Even the most skillfully-crafted, error-free Windows applications hose up with regularity, but perish the thought that Windows itself could misbehave.

Boosters are proud of the 4 million copies of Windows 3.0 sold, but no one talks about how many copies are reliably engaged in professional work versus how many just run Solitaire or the Paint program. The marketing message is glitter uber alles, and contrary to what fanatics say, corporate America is not embracing Windows with open arms. Mission-critical applications cannot operate in environments requiring IPLs every few jobs, especially on networks with tens or hundreds of busy power users.

Don't get me wrong . . . my intention is not to bash with vigor this Microsoft Windows product, however deserving it is for being as old as the hills and still not right. Despite my alleged density, I've finally come to the realization that any productivity gains we've made using superb GUI-based application software have gone right out the proverbial window just trying to keep Windows itself up and running. After a year and a half of this current version, Microsoft, thinking I really was born the day before yesterday, wants still more of my time and money to fix things that were the developers' fault in the first place. What is this, a subscription service that I have to renew every year? Call me crazy, but I have a gut feeling the Redmond crowd won't be the next Malcolm Baldridge Award nominees. On the other hand, thank goodness, soon we'll have a friendly alternative . . . OS/2 2.0.

People getting curious about OS/2 wonder how it could be a better operating system than that awfully attractive Windows 3.0. The answer is easy: Windows is not an operating system at all, but a complicated kludge that allows an 8-bit Disk Operating System to semi-reliably run programs in protected mode. A better name would be Mirrors 3.0. OS/2, on the other hand, was written from the ground up as a next-generation operating system with full linear memory addressing, isolated multi-threaded processes, an integrated graphics interface, and more. It was written mostly by Microsoft, but since IBM has taken over development of the new release 2.0 and has had time to work with it, the coding should be OK before the official ship date later this year. After all, IBM is a $60+billion company . . . the largest computer company in the universe. If Big Blue wants something to work, it does; IBM sincerely wants OS/2 to be a winner. And if they build it, I will come.

Because something about the next beta drop of OS/2 2.0 makes it an obvious choice for users of existing DOS, Windows and older OS/2 programs: you can load-and-go all three types of software right off the shelf. With built-in Windows compatibility code, it will run WordPerfect for Windows and 1-2-3 for Windows and PageMaker and hundreds of other Windows-compliant programs without loading Microsoft Windows itself, and no UAE's. You will be able to boot multiple native DOS sessions (3.3, 4.01 or 5.0) and run real MS-DOS or DR-DOS under OS/2 2.0, and there will be a Mac-like workplace shell to allow you to click-and-drag a document to a printer or wastebasket, etc.

GEOS With The 1541/1581 Disk Drives

by Ken Slaughter

Let me begin by stating that I am a great believer in manuals. More often than not, a problem arises due to not properly reading or understanding the manual. Of course, if the information is not there in the first place, it's real hard to read it!

This came to the attention of several geoUsers when, after someone placed a message on the GEOS board on Q-LINK concerning a problem they were having regarding the use of the 1581/1541 drives and geoWrite, I left the reply, "re-read the section xx on page 145 of your manual." Well, the user looked, but it wasn't there! After an all out nationwide investigation by dedicated GEOS users, it was determined that there are two different GEOS 2.0 manuals!

So, down to the nitty gritty: As of 12/31/88 there are two different versions of the GEOS 2.0 manual. Basically, the difference between the two is, one manual has binder holes punched in it, for placement into a small 3-ring binder, and the other manual does not have these holes. There is also at least one other difference. The manual without the holes contains some very valuable information that users of two different drive types (who are not using the REU) will find critical. The following 2 pages contain this information. With the California font placed on this disk, the printed output of pages 2 and 3 will produce a sort of *"Manual Update"* that can be cut down and placed directly into your manual. Select the PRINT option from the menu, and in the dialogue box, select "print from page 2 to page 3", unless you just feel the need to print out page one also. Using scissors or a paper cutter, cut the pages exactly 8 1/2 inches long X 5 3/4 wide, and the pages will fit neatly into your manual. When printed with a quad density driver, it makes a nice addition to your manual, but it is hardly necessary.

I hope this information comes in handy for those who need it. If you have more than one disk drive: *Copy geoWrite, the printer driver, the DESKTOP 2.0 file, font files, desk accessories, and text or photo albums and scraps to one disk. *Copy the documents to another disk.

If you have different disk drive types (e.g., a 1541 and a 1571) and no REU: Copy the CONFIGURE 2.0 file to any disk containing the DESKTOP 2.0 file. NOTE: So long as you have a RAM expansion unit, you need not copy the CONFIGURE 2.0 file to the work disks containing the DESKTOP, even if the drives are different. GeoWrite Documents and the 1581 Disk Drive If you try to open a geoWrite document on a disk in a 1581 disk drive, an error message saying "geoWrite and data file must be on the same disk in a one-drive system" will appear if you do not have a RAM expansion unit, even though you are using a two-drive system or you have geoWrite and its documents on the same disk.

To open the document, click OK in the error message dialogue box. The Create/Open/Quit dialogue box will appear, enabling you to gain access to your document. Note that the Create/Open/Quit dialogue box only displays the first 15 documents on the disk. If the document you need is not displayed, you will

need to rearrange file icons on the disk note pad so that the document file you need appears among the first 15 on the disk. See *"Rearranging File Icons"* on page 64, if necessary. If you are using a 1581 disk drive with a disk containing a GeoWrite document, you can open the document by first opening the GeoWrite application file, then selecting Open existing document from the Create/Open/Quit dialogue box. Copy the documents to another disk. If you have different disk drive types copy the documents to another disk. If you have different disk drive types (e.g., a 1541 and a 1571) and no REU: Copy the CONFIGURE 2.0 file to any disk containing the DESKTOP 2.0 file.

NOTE: So long as you have a RAM expansion unit, you need not copy the CONFIGURE 2.0 file to the work disks containing the DESKTOP, even if the drives are different. GeoPaint Documents and the 1581 Disk Drive If you try to open a geoPaint document on a disk in a 1581 disk drive, an error message saying "geoPaint and data file must be on the same disk in a one-drive system" will appear if you do not have a RAM expansion unit, even though you are using a two-drive system or you have geoPaint and its documents on the same disk. To open the document, click OK in the error message dialogue box. The Create/Open/Quit dialogue box will appear, enabling you to gain access to your document. Note that the Create/Open/Quit dialogue box only displays the first 15 documents on the disk. If the document you need is not displayed, you will need to rearrange file icons on the disk note pad so that the document file you need appears among the first 15 on the disk. See *"Rearranging File Icons"* on page 64, if necessary. If you are using a 1581 disk drive with a disk containing a geoPaint document, you can open the document by first opening the geoPaint application file, then selecting Open existing document from the Create/Open/Quit dialogue box.

"I don't want a user-friendly computer. Don't you have one that's so mean S.O.B."

Membership Report - Feb. 92

by Susan Greenberg

There will be no Memebership Report from Susan this month due to her being sick.

Sorry for the inconvinienced.

Preview: Windows 3.1

By Ray Monette

Working with *Windows 3.0* is like driving a very fast car that suddenly stalls. You're zipping along in your snazzy new software, when up springs a box reading

"**Unrecoverable Application Error**".

This is Windows' way of politely telling you that you have crashed, and must shut down and reboot.

When *Windows 3.1* arrives early next year, Microsoft will provide that by reducing bugs, adding safeguards and offering more powerful programming aids. More obvious will be a friendlier Program Manager/File Manager desktop.

In addition to many other easy-to-use improvements, the File Manager has been re-designed along the helpful lines of DOS 5.0's shell, and you can directly pick up a file and move it to another directory, or print it by dropping its icon on the Print Manager.

Performance should get zipping with optimized memory and disk usage. It also will boast built-in True Type scalable fonts that match printed output. (*Abode Type Manager and Bitstream's Facelift do the same, but True Type will come part of Windows 3.1*)

More subtly *Windows 3.1* adds support for embedding and linking objects (like graphics or worksheets) between applications.

You can embed a Paintbrush image in a Write document, for example: double-click on the image and up springs Paintbrush to help you polish it. You can also link the image so that when you change it in Paintbrush, it updates in Write (each application must be re-written to support this).

This article is a partial reprint of an article by Eric Bender in Oct. 91 *PC World*. To learn more about the NEW Windows 3.1 try to read this fabulous article.

If They Build It, It Will Come — From Page 6 ...

Everything runs faster than we've seen before because of 32-bit system calls and multi-threaded operations. And the hardware requirements are no different from what brochures and consultants recommend for a "well-behaved" Windows platform: 80386 or higher CPU, 3MB RAM, hard drive and VGA graphics display. Which thanks to Microsoft, I have already bought and paid for.

Microsoft Windows 3.0 has its good points, and I appreciate the experience gained from wrestling with it for the past 16 months. But I have an aversion to spending another minute or another dime on it to get it to run responsibly. I have a problem talking to alleged smart people who blame systems software glitches on "ill-behaved" application programs. If they'd just stop and think of how ridiculous and juvenile that sounds, maybe everyone could forget about levels of "behavior" and realize that the ultimate PC operating system for the 1990's will detect conflicts, isolate and protect different programs from each other, and run everything old, new, borrowed and whether or not Blue. IBM OS/2 2.0 seems to be on the right track. My beta test copy is on order, and I'm eager to load up an operating system with the muscle to match high-end hardware while multi-tasking familiar software.

Being a long-time Sperry fan, I used feel differently about the blue suit gang. But in a slow economy with people scrambling for jobs, and suppliers fighting for their piece of the shrinking buyer's pie, there's incentive to provide solutions, not just good looks. Microsoft says they're the only ones who know which way is up and to live with what we've got for awhile. Sure ... lip-service, lawsuits and terminator programs to battle competitors are going a long way to finish my projects so I can get back to yardwork and the kids!

Before Christmas, IBM pledges to give me what I want, not what they think I want. And they're going to do as they say, not as they've done. Gee Dad, it's OS/2!